

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LUFKIN DIVISION**

FILED - CLERK
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
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TX EASTERN DISTRICT
BY: *K. Riley*

**UNITED STATES, *ex rel.*
M. GLENN OSTERHOUDT, III,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

AMERADA HESS CORP. *et al.*

Defendants.

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C.A. No. 9:98CV101

JUDGE JOHN H. HANNAH, JR.

UNDER SEAL

SEALED

ORDER

Pursuant to the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3730(b)(4), the United States has (1) elected to intervene and proceed with this action as to Mobil Exploration and Production, USA, Inc., Burlington Resources Oil & Gas, Inc., and Shell Offshore, Inc.; (2) elected to decline to intervene as to Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc.; and (3) notified the Court that it is neither electing to intervene nor declining to intervene as to Amoco Production Company, Chevron USA, Inc., Enron Oil and Gas Co., and Exxon Co. USA, Inc.

The United States has requested that the First Amended Complaint For Damages And Other Relief Under The Federal False Claims Act and the Notice of United States' Intervention Decision be unsealed and served on the defendants. The United States has further requested that all prior filings in this case remain sealed, and that they not be served on defendants or otherwise made public.

As to those defendants as to which the United States has not yet made an election to intervene and those as to which the United States has declined to intervene, the United States has requested that, should either the relator or the defendants propose that this action be dismissed,

UNSEALED

settled, or otherwise discontinued, this Court solicit the written consent of the United States before ruling or granting its approval. Furthermore, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3730(c)(3), the United States has requested that all pleadings filed in this action be served upon the United States.

The requests of the United States are **GRANTED**. Accordingly, the Court hereby orders the following:

(1) this case shall be unsealed as to this Order and filings or pleadings submitted after the date of this Order;

(2) the First Amended Complaint For Damages And Other Relief Under The Federal False Claims Act and the Notice of United States' Intervention Decision shall be unsealed and shall be served on the defendants and the relator;

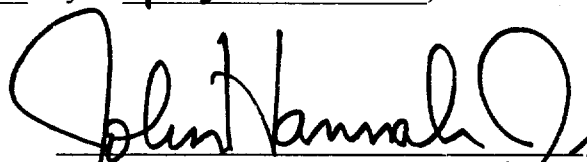
(3) all contents of the Court's file in this matter which were filed prior to the date of this Order and which are not named in paragraph 2 above shall remain sealed, and shall not be served on the defendants or otherwise made public;

(4) the United States shall have sixty days from the date of this Order to file its own complaint;

(5) henceforth the parties shall serve all pleadings and motions filed in this action, including supporting memoranda, upon the United States, as provided for in 31 U.S.C. § 3730(c)(3). The United States may order any deposition transcripts and is entitled to intervene in this action as to those defendants as to which the United States has not yet made an intervention decision and as to those defendants as to which it has declined to intervene, for good cause, at any time. Should the relator or the defendants propose that this action be dismissed, settled, or otherwise discontinued as to those defendants as to which the United States has not yet made an intervention decision or as to which the United States has declined to intervene, the Court will solicit the written consent of the

United States before ruling or granting its approval.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 28th day of March, 2000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Hannah Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

HONORABLE JOHN H. HANNAH, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE